

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - May 20, 2013

The regular meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on May 20, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Township Hall, 2600 Bayshore Road, Villas, New Jersey.

The Clerk announced that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act and that adequate notice of the meeting had been provided according to law.

The following members of Council were present for roll call taken by the Clerk:

Councilmember Thomas Conrad
Councilmember James Neville
Councilmember Glenn Douglass
Deputy Mayor Norris Clark
Mayor Michael Beck

Also present: Charles W. Sandman, III, Solicitor, Michael Voll, Manager and Karen Fournier, Clerk's Office

Presentation - Arrow of Light Badge - Jacob Allen & Daniel Krueger

Mayor Beck and Council presented Daniel Krueger with a Certificate of Recognition for having obtained the Arrow of Light Badge, the highest award in Cub Scouts. Daniel is a member of Pack 63 and has been involved in Scouts for 9 years. He was accompanied by his mother Kristen, brother Dylan and grandfather Russell. Jacob Allen was not present.

Presentation - Judy Saracco

Mayor Beck introduced Judy Saracco, the recipient of the 2013 Outstanding Senior of the Year by Cape May County Department of Aging and Disability Services. Judy has been a volunteer with Holy Redeemer Home Care and Hospice for twelve years. In the words of her friends and coworkers, she is known as an asset to the community. Mayor Beck and Council presented Judy with a plaque congratulating her on her distinguished achievement.

Presentation - Police Commendations - Chief Brian Marker

Police Chief Brian Marker informed that last week was National Police Week when thousands of communities across the country got together to support their officers. Chief Marker, accompanied by Captain William Mastriana and Lieutenant Thomas Beeby, presented before Council to commend the following Officers on their outstanding performance: Patrolman Michael Perry, Patrolman Anthony Greto, Patrolman Kevin Boyle, and Patrolman Ed Edwards. See attached performance notices for specifics. Also present at the meeting was Jeff Brodhag of North Cape May, living testimony of the commendable efforts of Patrolmen Kevin Boyle and Anthony Greto who saved his life after suffering a heart attack while driving. In addition, Chief Marker acknowledged LCMR High School Resource Officer Mike Perry for the success of the large-scale, multi-agency school safety drill that was conducted last week.

Captain Mastriana informed that the Lower Township Police Department is an accredited agency, assessed by the State Chiefs Accreditation Commission and must comply with 112 standards based on Police Department Best Practices and NJ Statutory and Regulatory Law. Captain Mastriana presented Officer Jennifer Anzelone a Certificate of Recognition for her dedication and devotion to the accreditation process.

Mayor Beck thanked Chief Marker for the great work he's done with the Police Department. He wished him well on his upcoming June retirement and stated that he will be missed.

Presentation - Genesis Health Care - Denise Raymond

Mayor Beck introduced Denise Raymond with Genesis Health Care, along with Dave Kinder, Administrator at Victoria Manor and Jeannie Stanton, Regional Director of Sales and Marketing with Genesis. Mayor Beck and Council presented them with a Certificate of Appreciation for their outstanding service to the residents of Lower Township at the Health Fair on April 25. Ms. Raymond announced that they had 220 attendees at this year's event.

Work Session

Presentation - Lower Township Elementary Educational Foundations sponsored by the Friends of Fishing Creek School - George Drozdowski, Claudia Von Savage, John Louderback

Deputy Mayor Clark shared a story about a one room schoolhouse that started with a dream. Through the efforts and formation of Friends of Fishing Creek School and the support of sponsors and local donors, that dream for the Fishing Creek School is becoming a reality.

George Drozdowski, Lower Township Elementary School Superintendent spoke about the inception of the Lower Township Elementary Education Foundation in 2006 by his predecessor, Joseph Cirrinicione and the impact it's had on the community. The Foundation raises money to feed local families in need, as well as fund field trips and academic purchases and supplement the early childhood visitation program. Mr. Drozdowski proudly stated that the money raised goes no further than our own Township.

Deputy Mayor Clark announced that the Friends of Fishing Creek School have agreed to help raise money for the early childhood education program.

Claudia Von Savage, chairperson for the Friends of Fishing Creek School's newest initiative - raising money for the early childhood education program - expressed her belief in early intervention and stressed that parents are the best teachers. She acknowledged the people who have contributed so far and encouraged others to help with this worthwhile cause.

Deputy Mayor Clark thanked Architect, Jim Lindemon and Township Grants Coordinator, Colleen Crippen for their joint effort in securing almost \$240,000 from a Small Cities Grant to transform the schoolhouse into a fully functioning, ADA compliant community center aimed at supporting early childhood educational programs.

John Louderback, chairman of the Friends of Fishing Creek School gave Council a project update and informed that it has been 87 years since educational programs have been carried out in that schoolhouse. He also thanked Jim Lindemon and Colleen Crippen and announced a few of the upcoming events planned for the schoolhouse including family movie night and a summer music program.

Mayor Beck expressed his pride in so many people in this town for their ongoing community spirit. He thanked Deputy Mayor Clark and the Friends of Fishing Creek School for all their efforts.

Presentation - Recreation Department- Mitch Plenn & Jim Ridgway

Lower Township Recreation Director Mitchell Plenn and Assistant Director Jim Ridgway presented a powerpoint slide show highlighting some of the great things that the Recreation Department is doing (see attached powerpoint information).

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Ridgway introduced Steve Del Monte of Delmo Sports, promoter of the inaugural Escape the Cape Triathlon.

Mr. Del Monte thanked Mayor and Council, Township Manager, the Police Department, the Recreation Department and all parties involved in the event for their support and cooperation. Mr. Del Monte noted that nothing like this has ever taken place on the East Coast. Registration opened up and sold out in just ten short weeks with competitors from 16 states. He anticipates a half-million to a million dollar boost in the local economy as a result of the event.

Deputy Mayor Clark declared that he is in favor of anything that can get people to dive into our water and swim to our shore. Councilmember Douglass encouraged people to check out the website, "it's very impressive".

Mayor Beck thanked Mr. Del Monte for the excitement that he's brought to the community and stated that he looks forward to the event. He also commended Mr. Plenn and Mr. Ridgway on their presentation and all the improvements to the Recreation Department.

Discussion - Sustainable Funding for Open Space

Mayor Beck had agreed to look at the resolution regarding Sustainable Funding for Open Space. He has had people approach him to share their opinions, both strongly opposing and strongly supporting this issue. After speaking with the League of Municipalities, he learned that there are three options being discussed in an effort to create a sustainable source of funding for Open Space: The first options has to do with a surcharge on water bills; The second option is a reissuance of a bond; The third and preeminent option, is a state sales tax in which one-fifth of one cent will be dedicated to the preservation of Open Space. Mayor Beck stated that he personally supports the concept of preservation, but does not know where Council stands on the issue.

Councilmember Conrad believes in preserving the land, but he does not trust the state with dedication of funds.

Councilmember Neville believes that a dedicated sales tax is the way to go and agreed to support a resolution.

Councilmember Douglass agreed with Councilmember Neville.
 Deputy Mayor Clark agreed in support of the concept of Open Space, not the particular method of doing so.
 Mayor Beck asked Solicitor Sandman to prepare the resolution for the next agenda.

Consent Agenda

Ed Butler of Villas addressed Council regarding Resolution 2013-143, to inquire about the amendment to the Capital Budget. Mayor Beck explained that it has been reduced from 1.6 million to 1.1 million. Mr. Butler voiced his concern about it being a bond issue and costing the taxpayers money. Mayor Beck reassured Mr. Butler that the Township has been very stringent about spending and continued to explained the reason for bonding.

- Membership Applic. NJ Fireman's Association - Joshua Senbertrand, Villas Vol Fire Co
- Approval of Minutes May 6, 2013
- Res. #2013-141 Payment of Vouchers \$ 195,539.21
- Res. #2013-142 Authorization for Refund of Taxes (4 properties \$3,420.11)
- Res. #2013-143 Capital Budget Amendment
- Res. #2013-144 Authorizing Payout of Terminal Leave (L.Vito \$1,963.20.)
- Res. #2013-145 Cops In Shops Summer Shore Initiative 2013 (Authorizing application)
- Res. #2013-146 Issuance of Ice Cream Peddling and Ice Cream Salesmen Licenses for the year 2013 (Summer Daze, Mister Softee and A & T Ice, LLC)
- Res. #2013-147 Issuance of 2013 Taxi and Operator Licenses (Ocean Cab)
- Res. #2013-148 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (NJDOT \$175,000.)
- Res. #2013-149 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Comcast Technology Grant (\$100,000.)
- Res. #2013-150 Supporting Cape May City and Cape May County's Application to the United States Coast Guard for Official Designation of Cape May County as "A Coast Guard Community"
- Res. #2013-151 Appointment of Public Information Officer for June 1, 2013 thru December 31, 2013 Without Public Bidding (Jack Fichter - \$7,000.)
- Res. #2013-152 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (E.Coombs \$8,310.80)
- Res. #2013-153 Resolution Opposing New Jersey State Assembly Bill No. 3920 Creating A New Jersey Coastal Commission (requested by Planning & Zoning)
- Res. #2013-154 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Clean Communities \$69,368.29)
- Ord. #2013-09 An Ordinance of the Township of Lower Amending and Restating Chapter 351 - Flood Damage Prevention - Introduction - 2nd reading and public hearing June 3rd
- Ord. #2013-10 Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of Various Capital Equipment and the Completion of Various Capital Improvements in and for the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey; Appropriating the sum of \$1,139,000. Therefore: Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds or Bond Anticipation Notes of the Township of Lower , County of Cape May, State of New Jersey in the Aggregate Principal Amount of up to \$1,080,000.; Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection with the Foregoing. Introduction - 2nd reading and public hearing June 3rd.

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD		X	X			
NEVILLE			X			
DOUGLASS	X		X			
CLARK			X			
BECK			X			

Regular Agenda

Res. # 2013-155

Authorizing Payment of Vouchers (Douglass Landscaping \$6,392.50)

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD			X			
NEVILLE		X	X			
DOUGLASS					X	
CLARK	X		X			
BECK			X			

Res. # 2013-156

Authorizing Payment of Vouchers (L/T Rescue \$35,000.)

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD					X	
NEVILLE		X	X			
DOUGLASS	X		X			
CLARK			X			
BECK			X			

Administrative Reports

Personnel Action Report

Department Monthly Reports: Animal Control, Dog License, Municipal Clerk, Police, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Vital Statistics

Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad announced that roads will be closed, including the Seashore Bridge on June 2nd for the Triathlon. He also announced the Runway 5K event at the Naval Air Station on June 8th.

Councilmember Neville remains optimistic about the good things the Triathlon will bring to Lower Township. He also proudly announced that he will be absent from the next meeting as he will be listening to his son's Valedictorian Speech during Graduation.

Councilmember Douglass expressed his excitement watching local people prepare for the Triathlon. He commended Steve Del Monte and the Township Recreation Department for their hard work. He also announced the successful start of fishing season.

Mayor Beck said he looks forward to the Triathlon and the exposure that it will bring. He hopes that residents will come watch the event.

Mayor Beck also announced the following: Jeans for Troops, Thursday, May 23rd, \$5 donation; Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency meeting, Thursday, May 30th at 1:00 in Town Hall; Community Day, June 8th; Escape the Cape Triathlon, June 2nd.

Mayor Beck thanked the Greater Cape May Elk's Lodge for hosting a luncheon for local Veterans. He proudly proclaimed "we have some real heroes in this town".

Councilmember Douglass attended the Grand Opening of Family Promise's new office building and stated that they are an asset to our community.

Mayor Beck agreed, stating that Family Promise does a fantastic job.

Call to the Public

Frank Saracco of Villas addressed Council to commend Lower Township's Animal Control Officer, Don Montgomery, and thank him for his quick, professional response to a daytime incident involving a raccoon at his door.

Betty Somers of Villas addressed Council to also commend the Animal Control Officer for helping with an incident involving a cat.

Steve Sheftz of Townbank addressed Council requesting their attendance at the meeting on May 30th at Town Hall regarding water hook ups. He also informed that the response has been great and thanked Mayor and Council for their assistance.

Wayne Wiesman of Beechwood Avenue addressed Council to thank the people involved with reconstructing 4th and Beechwood Avenues, and Eileen Kreis for the phone calls she made.

Manager Voll announced that preliminary construction has started on Clubhouse Road. He also informed that security will be tight during the Triathlon event to ensure everyone's safety.

Walter Miller of Villas addressed Council to thank the Police Department for maintaining traffic on Main Street and Manager Voll for his help with the situation at Wawa. He also voiced his disapproval with corporations in this town that refuse to abide by the noise ordinance.

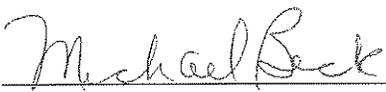
Mayor Beck suggested that the solution be a combination of a sound barrier between the properties and the cooperation of Wawa not allowing their distributors to make deliveries during set hours. He also suggested that the Township Solicitor get involved this time.

Robert Rizzo addressed Council to comment on the fine job the Recreation Department did on their presentation. He requested they post the dates and times of upcoming events.

Mayor Beck informed that the information is on the Township Website under Recreation Department, but he will try to get something posted elsewhere.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Douglass, seconded by Councilmember Conrad. Motion to adjourn unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.



Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved: June 3, 2013